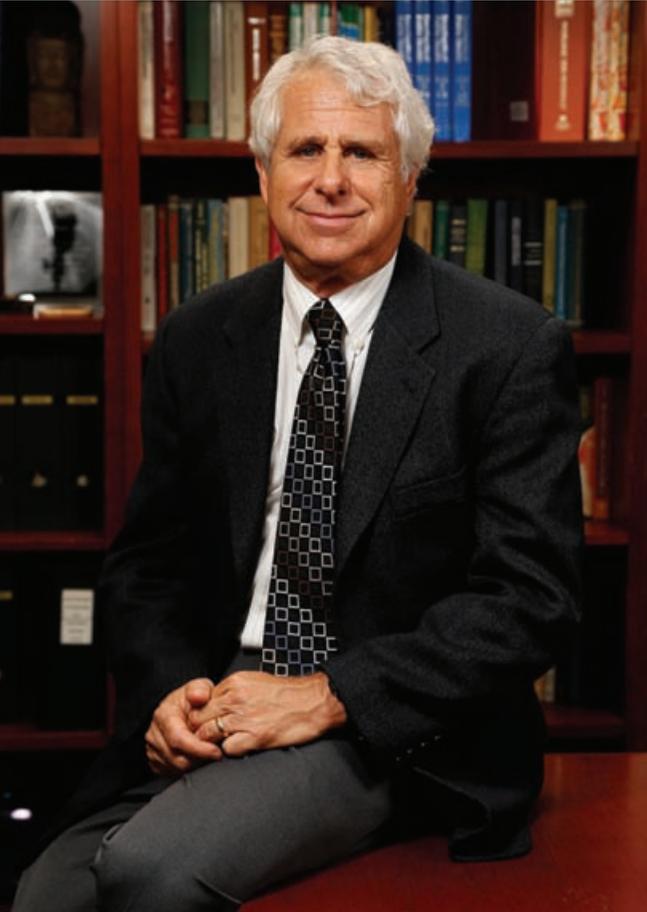


dean's message

THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN one of significant transformation for the school, and I wanted to use this dean's message to share my perspective on these important transformations with our students, alumni and friends.



This past February, we announced the largest gift in the school's 50-year history and added one of our esteemed colleagues, Dr. Jonathan Fielding and his wife Karin Fielding, to the school's name. Their generous gift also encouraged other faculty members to create student endowments – you can read more about them on page 32. While these gifts represent a tremendous infusion of new revenue, they aren't sufficient to shield our school from continued deep reductions to our budget caused by state cuts – cuts that are more than likely to become deeper in future years. If you have ever considered a gift to the school, I encourage you to use the envelope provided and give as generously as you are able.

Not all the transitions of 2012 were happy. In April we said goodbye to two beloved faculty members, Drs. Lester Breslow and Rick Brown. We included obituaries for both in the last issue of the magazine, and in this issue we take a deeper look at the contributions that each has made to public health. While both had extraordinary individual careers, they leave behind a broader legacy that will continue to guide the field of public health and influence policy.

Through his vision of a new era of health, focused not just on diseases but improving people's capacity to enjoy life, Dr. Breslow launched a movement you'll read more about in our cover story. The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), launched by Dr. Brown, is the largest state survey of its kind and has had a tremendous impact on state and federal policy (read more about the continuing influence of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, where CHIS is based, on page 11, along with a profile of Dr. Ninez Ponce, the new director of CHIS, on page 16). While we miss them both tremendously, Drs. Breslow and Brown leave behind colleagues and students committed to making sure their legacies live on.

In June we thanked Dr. Linda Rosenstock for her nearly 12 years of leadership serving as dean of the school. Her tenure brought in a more diverse faculty and a focus on student recruitment that led to a doubling of student applicants, significantly raising the caliber of our student body while maintaining the Fielding School's status as one of the most diverse in the country. Dr. Rosenstock remains on the faculty as a professor of health policy and management.

Dr. Rosenstock's departure facilitated a transition for me, as well. I was honored to be asked to step in as interim dean while we await the arrival of Dr. Jody Heymann. The experience has offered me a deeper appreciation of activities taking place in the entire school. Our enterprising and productive faculty members and a dedicated staff make the Fielding School an optimal place to receive hands-on training in public health. Our students really do represent the best and the brightest, and I am continually impressed by their enthusiasm and commitment. The future of public health is in good hands.

At the end of the year I will gladly hand over the reins to incoming dean Dr. Jody Heymann (for news of her announcement, see page 32). Dr. Heymann comes at an exciting time for the Fielding School and she has the vision and passion to help us continue to reach greater heights. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to serve as interim dean and am grateful to be on the faculty of such a first-rate institution.



Thomas Rice, Ph.D.
Interim Dean

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